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Washington, D.C. Congressman Harry Teague announced in a news release issued Oct. 8 that several projects at Holloman Air Force Base are one step closer to receiving new funding.

According to the release, the fiscal year 2010 National Defense Authorization Act conference report passed by the House Oct. 8 includes \$37.5 million for the unmanned aerial systems program, \$10.4 million to build an F-22 fire/crash rescue station and \$5.5 million to build a consolidated F-22 munitions facility at Holloman. The conference report also authorizes a 3.4 percent military pay raise and expands TRICARE.

"Funding for the F-22 and UAS missions will mean an economic boost for Alamogordo," Congressman Teague stated in the release. "These are much needed and, in some cases, long overdue renovations that Holloman needs to carry out its mission and keep the men and women on base safe and secure."

Congressman Teague has made securing funding to construct a new fire/crash rescue station at Holloman and funding for the UAS mission a top priority. Currently, the F-22 fleet is supported by an outdated fire station whose distance from the F-22 hampers the ability of emergency personnel to respond quickly to emergency situations.

The release reports Holloman is slated to receive 10 MQ-1s this year, and 12 next in 2010. The base is also scheduled to receive five MQ-9s this year and 11 in 2010.

The NDAA, which authorizes this funding, now heads to the Senate for consideration.

The conference report authorizes \$550.2 billion in support of the military and \$130 billion to support overseas contingency operations during fiscal year 2010.

The bill also prohibits fee increases on TRICARE inpatient care for one year; provides travel and transportation for three designated persons, including non-family members, to visit hospitalized servicemembers; establishes an internship pilot program within federal agencies for military spouses; and directs the Department of Defense to establish an undergraduate nurse training program to help alleviate the shortage of military nurses.

The bill will also increase the size of the military by 30,000 Army troops, 8,100 Marines, 14,650 Air Force personnel and 2,477 Navy sailors in fiscal year 2010, as requested by the president, as well as provide \$6.9 billion to address equipment shortfalls in the National Guard and Reserves.